



187A 3416

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

SHINICHI HIRAMOTO et al.

Serial No.: 10/616,771

Filed: July 10, 2003

For: BAG-MAKING AND PACKAGING
MACHINE EQUIPPED WITH A
STOCKER APPARATUS

Art Unit: 3721

Examiner: --

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR 1.97(b)**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97(b) and 1.98, Applicant for the above-identified application hereby submits legible copies of the following relevant arts as required by 37 CFR 1.98(b):

- A. U.S. Patent No. 4,451,249 issued to deBin on May 29, 1984;
- B. French patent publication No. FR 1 334 578 published in France on August 9, 1963;
- C. German patent publication No. DE 199 35 065 published in Germany on September 28, 2000;
- D. Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open (Kokai) No. 2002-36392 published in Japan on February 5, 2002;
- E. Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open (Kokai) No. 2001-48342 published in Japan on February 20, 2001; and
- F. Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open (Kokai) No. 2002-41122 published in Japan on February 8, 2002.

Of the above-listed prior art, prior art A-C are cited in the Search Report which


was completed on October 27, 2003 by the European Patent Office for European Patent Application No. EP 03 01 5770 which is a counterpart application to the above-identified U.S. application. A copy of the Search Report is enclosed.

Though prior art B and C cited in the Search Report is not in the English language, the Search Report is written in English and the degree of relevance is indicated therein by way of the markings As along with the explanation of such marking. Accordingly, pursuant to MPEP Section 609, the requirement for a concise explanation of relevance pursuant to 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3) for these non-English language prior art is satisfied, and an English concise explanation thereof is omitted herein.

Prior art D-F are not in the English language, but the concise explanation of relevance of these prior art is incorporated in the specification pursuant to 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3). Nonetheless, each of these publications is accompanied by English language abstract.

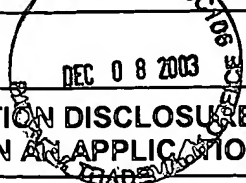
In view of the above, it is therefore respectfully requested that the Patent Office make a record of these relevant arts and consider them.

Respectfully submitted,
KODA & ANDROLIA

By: 
William L. Androlia
Reg. No. 27,177

2029 Century Park East
Suite 1430
Los Angeles, CA 90067-3024
Tel: (310) 277-1391
Fax: (310) 277-4118

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on
December 5, 2003
Date of Deposit
William L. Androlia
Name
[Signature] 12/5/2003
Signature Date

FORM PTO-1449		Dock t Number (Opti nal) 187A 3416		Application Numb r 10/616,771		
 INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION IN AN APPLICATION		Applicant Hiramoto et al.				
(Use several sheets if necessary)		Filing Date 7/10/2003		Gr up Art Unit 3721		
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	4,451,249	5/29/1984	deBin			
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION (YES/NO)
	FR 1 334 578	8/9/1963	France			
	DE 199 35 065	9/28/2000	Germany			
	JP 2002-36392	2/5/2002	Japan			
	JP 2001-48342	2/20/2001	Japan			
	JP 2002-41122	2/8/2002	Japan			
OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)						
EXAMINER		DATE CONSIDERED				

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP § 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to the applicant.